

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly for coupling between a power end and a fluid end of a high pressure reciprocating pump, the assembly comprising one or more clamping members arranged relative to a longitudinal rod axis and located between the power end and the fluid end, each clamping member having a first end ~~adapted~~ to grip the power end component, and a second end ~~adapted~~ to grip the fluid end component, and at least one of said clamping members ~~member~~ including one or more tensioning devices, wherein said tensioning device comprises a piston to provide a load in said tensioning device solely orthogonal to said rod axis and thereby secure said components against release.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, the clamping members are part cylindrical bodies ~~which when~~ arranged on the rod axis to provide a substantially cylindrical body.

Claim 3 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, there are two clamping members, an upper clamping member and a lower clamping member.

Claim 4 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, the first and second ends include a contact face parallel to the rod axis on an inner surface.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the tensioning device brings the clamping members together, and wherein each contact face provides a recess on the inner surface in which a portion of the respective power end component or fluid end component is ~~located such that the component is gripped and held when the clamping members are brought together by the tensioning device.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein each of the power end and fluid end components ~~component end~~ and the first and second ends of the clamping member ~~first/second end~~ provide a knuckle joint.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein each piston is slideable within an hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein each piston includes at least one stem ~~adapted~~ to receive a nut or a lock.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 3 wherein each piston includes at least one stem ~~adapted~~ to receive a nut or a lock; and wherein each stem extends from one clamping member through an aperture in an adjacent clamping member, and wherein the ~~the~~ [[a]] nut or lock engages the stem to couple the clamping members.

Claim 11 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 9 wherein a spring is arranged within the hydraulic cylinder to tension the said stem.

Claim 12 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the assembly includes non-rotational arrangement for preventing rotation of said stem.

Claim 13 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the non-rotational arrangement is a pin located ~~locating~~ in a matching recess arranged parallel to the stem.

Claim 14 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein a space is defined between a base of the cylinder and a base of the piston for accommodating hydraulic fluid.

Claim 15 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the assembly includes a fluid inlet port to permit the input of hydraulic fluid to the cylinder.

Claim 16 (currently amended). A piston rod assembly as claimed in Claim 15 wherein a chamber is included in at least one of said clamping members ~~the/each member~~ to provide a common feed for hydraulic fluid to ~~all~~ a plurality of the cylinders within the clamping member.

Claim 17 (previously presented). A piston rod assembly for coupling between a power end component and a fluid end component of a high pressure reciprocating pump, the assembly comprising an upper clamping member and a lower clamping member each having a fluid end recess and a power end recess on an inner surface of each clamping member arranged along an axis of the components wherein a portion of each component is gripped and held within each of the respective recesses wherein the clamping members are brought together by a tensioning device located orthogonal to the axis of the components, wherein the tensioning device comprises a stem adapted to receive a nut or a lock, wherein the tensioning device is engaged in a non-rotational arrangement within the lower clamping member and the stem extends through an aperture in the upper clamping member, wherein a nut engages the stem and the upper clamping member to provide tension in said tensioning device such that the clamping members are brought together by the tensioning device.

Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (previously presented). The piston rod assembly of Claim 17, wherein the tensioning device includes a least one spring ~~arranged~~ to bring the upper and lower clamping members in shear.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The piston rod assembly of Claim 19, wherein the spring comprises a disc spring, a disk spring stack, a spring stack, an elastic member, or a combination thereof.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The piston rod assembly of Claim 17, wherein the non-rotational arrangement comprises a recess disposed within the lower clamping member arranged parallel to the stem.

Claim 22 (currently amended). The piston rod assembly of Claim 17, wherein the fluid end recess, ~~and/or~~ the power end recess or both the fluid end recess and the power end recess include a bearing pad comprising a material having an elastic modulus suitable to provide give between the assembly and the power end component, ~~and/or~~ the fluid end component or both the power end component and the fluid end component when the component is gripped and held within the recess.